

**FEATURING BEST PRACTICES  
OF STATE AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**

**Strategic Planning and Budgeting**

**NETSPACE  
(Institutional Effectiveness Through Strategic  
Planning, Accountability, Commitment and  
Engagement)**

**New River Community College  
implemented this best practice  
in 1995**

*Qualifying under the  
Best Practices catalogue*

3 Provide Capabilities  
33 Provide administrative support services  
331 Information for decision-making

**Best Practice Summary  
(how it works, how you measure it)**

In order to increase participation, to link the planning and budgeting functions, to ensure a continuous strategic planning process, and to provide better documentation of the planning elements of goals, objectives, outcomes, and uses of results (as required by the Southern Association of College and Schools [SACS]), an on-line computerized system, NETSPACE (Institutional Effectiveness Through Strategic Planning, Accountability, Commitment and Engagement), was developed. The system has been in use since fiscal year 1995-1996 and

provides major support to the strategic planning process. All funds outside of the basic operating budgets are allocated through the strategic planning process.

## **Impact on the Process Organizational Performance (OUTCOMES)**

New River Community College's (NRCC) strategic planning process has become the major force for driving change at the college. The process is structured and managed on a two-year planning cycle and is bolstered by a significant institutional research function, sophisticated management information systems, and robust technology. This automated system allows budget allocations to be considered based on budget requests that are tied to objectives from all functional units and departments in the college.

## **Best Practice Qualification**

Internal and external audits have affirmed the system's efficiency. NRCC received a commendation from the Southern Association of College and Schools for its development and use of NETSPACE.

## **For Additional Information**

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